GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3580
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
SPECIAL PACKAGES FOR NATIONAL PARKS
Oram Shri Jual;Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the deteriorating condition of various National Parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has announced special packages for some National Parks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any such package is being considered for Shimilipal National Park in Orissa;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal activities in National Parks?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Management of National Parks is the responsibility of Governments of States/UTs. Government of India provides technical and financial assistance whenever requested. However, few cases of habitat deterioration and inadequate protection of wildlife on account of shortage of field staff, lack of infrastructure etc. in National Parks such as Keoladeo and Sariska have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) & (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" Central Government provides necessary financial assistance to various National Parks and Sanctuaries in the States on the basis of Annual Plan of Operation submitted by the respective State Governments and subject to availability of funds. No special package as such has been announced for any National Park.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Steps taken by the Government to check illegal activities in National Parks are at Annexure.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3580 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.4.2005 REGARDING SPECIAL PACKAGES FOR NATIONAL PARKS

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protection.

(iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.